

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER SIX OF TITLE TEN OF THE CODE OF IOWA OF 1873, AND PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM CHARGE FOR TRANSMITTING TELEGRAPH MESSAGES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That chapter six of title ten of the Code of Iowa of 1873, be and is hereby
2 amended as follows:

SEC. 2. No telegraph company, or companies, or individual, or individuals, or co-partner-
2 ship, operating or owning and operating any telegraph line or lines in the State of Iowa,
3 shall charge or receive for transmitting any message over their wires within said State,
4 more than the following rates: For transmitting a message of not more than ten words,
5 exclusive of the address and signature, one hundred miles or less, fifteen cents; over one
6 hundred miles and less than two hundred miles, twenty cents; over two hundred miles,
7 twenty-five cents, and a further sum of one half a cent for each additional word over ten;
8 *provided*, that all messages sent between the hours of ten o'clock P. M. and six o'clock A. M.,
9 shall be charged for at not exceeding two thirds the above rates. The distance above
10 mentioned shall be computed by way of the nearest telegraph lines.

SEC. 3. When a message must be transmitted over the wires of more than one com-
2 pany to reach its destination, a further sum not exceeding thirty per cent in addition to
3 the rates fixed in section two of this act may be changed.

SEC. 4. For any unreasonable delay in delivering or transmitting a message, the pro-
2 prietor or proprietors of such telegraph line or lines, shall be liable for all damages sus-
3 tained and for a further sum of twenty-five dollars as liquidated damages, in each case;
4 which may be sued for and recovered as in ordinary actions, and said proprietor or proprie-
5 tors shall also be liable for all mistakes made by any person in his or their employment,
6 and for all damages resulting from a failure to perform anyother duties required by law.

SEC. 5. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.